

H. LAUREN LEWIS ***South Dakota '37*** **Oxford Cup Roll N° 022**

Strong threads of leadership and legacy are woven into this Beta's story. His full name on the role of Gamma Alpha is Harry Lauren Lewis; it may have been a long time since he used all of that. And you may have found him listed in three classes: initiated as a member of the class of 1937, he was recorded as '39 on the chapter roster in the Beta magazine for each of the remaining three years. Yet we find that he received his Bachelor of Science in 1939. You could do that at South Dakota in the Thirties . . . if you were smart. Anyway, he was #277 on the chapter roll all the way, and still is.

He still is also responsive to call. Chapter treasurer in his junior year, he was in charge of construction of a new chapter house at Vermillion in 1969. He served the Fraternity as chief of District XXV, 1969-73. As a resident of LaQuinta, California, he welcomed the 151st General Convention at Palm Desert to California in the role of Temporary President, his second time as Temporary President, and shortly afterward he agreed to accept chairmanship of the Beta Foundation Fund Drive for 1990-91 and to give that important campaign his full attention immediately.

Three of his sons were initiated as Betas while undergraduates, and his fourth son has only recently been initiated. When Lauren relinquished the district chief assignment, he was succeeded for two years by John W. Forney, DePauw '65. But then for 1975-79, there was a new chief: Lauren's son David L. Lewis, *South Dakota '72*, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The others are James T. Lewis, *South Dakota '65*, who has been chapter counselor for Gamma Alpha, and Paul Jay Lewis, *South Dakota/Washington University '73*, LaQuinta bank president. Allen Lewis was given honorary activation in 1995. Another recent addition is his grandson Thomas Lewis, *South Dakota '87*.

Lauren was born in Sioux Falls, July 21, 1915. He practiced law in Washington, D.C., for several years. In 1951, he organized Midwest Coast Transport, Inc., and became its chairman. In 1964, he purchased All-America Transport, Inc., becoming its president. These two companies were employing more than 3,000 persons when he sold them and entered the banking business in California and South Dakota.

Lauren has been a member of the Board of Regents for the State of South Dakota. He is past president of Associated Motor Carriers, Inc., of South Dakota and president of the Middlewest Motor Freight Bureau of Kansas City, Missouri.

He is chairman of the Dakota Dome of the University of South Dakota, past president of its Foundation and a board member of the Law School Foundation. In 1979, he was honored with an L.L.D. (Honorary) by the University of South Dakota.

— Robert T. Howard, DePauw '37, Historian